

Work Groups' Recommendations and Corresponding Decisions

1. The following committees should be constituted as standing committees of the Judicial Council: Legislative; Court Operations and Technology; Domestic Law; Juvenile Law; Court Access and Community Relations; Specialty Courts and Dockets; Alternative Dispute Resolution; and Retired and Recalled. The Conferences will continue as currently constituted. Committees and Commissions established by rule, statute, or the Maryland Constitution should remain without modification. ***Recommendation accepted.***
2. The District Court Administrative Judges' Committee, as well as the committees established by the Chief Judge of the District Court are part of the internal structure of that Court, the oversight of which should not be the Judicial Council's responsibility. ***Recommendation accepted.***
3. The membership of the Conference of Circuit Judges' Masters' Governance Committee should be expanded to include masters. ***Recommendation accepted.***
4. The Chief Judge should issue an administrative order that clearly defines and differentiates *conference*, *commission*, *committee*, and *workgroup* consistent with the new Protocol for Maryland Court Committees. ***Recommendation accepted pursuant to conformance with the guidelines for issuing administrative orders recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Orders.***
5. Under the new committee structure, the Committee on Problem-Solving Courts should become a subcommittee of the Specialty Courts and Dockets Committee. ***Recommendation accepted.***
6. The Judicial Compensation Committee, which functions in a legislative resource capacity, should become a workgroup of the Legislative Committee. ***Recommendation accepted.***
7. Under the new committee structure, the Foster Care Court Improvement Project should become a subcommittee of the Juvenile Law Committee. ***Recommendation accepted.***
8. Judiciary representatives to legislatively-created *ad hoc* committees, as well as [legislatively formed] task forces and commissions should be required to submit status reports twice annually to the Judicial Council. A protocol for serving on these committees, task forces, or commissions should be established. ***Recommendation accepted.***
9. The Chief Judge should consider the issuance of an administrative order articulating that approved subcommittees or workgroups may include external members as consultants, but the Committee itself is to be comprised solely of judiciary members. ***Recommendation accepted pursuant to conformance with the guidelines for issuing***

administrative orders recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Orders.

10. Require that all reports mandated by the General Assembly be reviewed by the Judicial Council prior to submission. ***Recommendation accepted.***
11. The Court of Appeals should consider issuing an administrative order assigning the services and functions of the Professionalism Center that are within the Judiciary's purview to the appropriate Judicial Council committee and recommending that the remaining services and functions be undertaken by the Maryland State Bar Association or the appropriate external entity. ***Recommendation accepted pursuant to conformance with the guidelines for issuing administrative orders recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Orders.***
12. The Access to Justice Commission should be sunset by January 1, 2015, with the newly formed Court Access and Community Relations Committee assuming responsibility for the services and functions under the purview of the Judiciary. The remaining functions and services should be undertaken by the appropriate external entity. ***Recommendation accepted.***
13. The Judicial Institute Board shall continue as currently constituted; however, the Judicial Council should consider whether to expand its functions to address all education and training within the Judiciary. ***Recommendation accepted.***
14. The Administrative Office of the Courts should periodically update the Judicial Council, the Conference of Circuit Court Judges, and court administrators on all internal and external grants. ***Recommendation accepted.***
15. Except as specifically addressed herein, all presently existing committees created by administrative order, including related subcommittees and workgroups, should be sunsetted. ***Recommendation accepted.***
16. A task force should be established by the Chief Judge to study the Open Meetings Act and its application to Judiciary conferences, commissions, committees, and workgroups. ***The concept is accepted. An internal workgroup, rather than a task force, comprising judges and legal staff will be convened to conduct the study.***
17. The Administrative Office of the Courts should periodically review programs being operated under the auspices of committees or commissions and recommend to the Judicial Council whether such programs would be better undertaken within the AOC or District Court administration. ***Recommendation accepted.***
18. The Chief Judge should issue an administrative order clarifying the role and authority of administrative judges on both trial courts, as well as a policy statement outlining

expectations for administrative judges and the judges they supervise. ***Recommendation accepted pursuant to conformance with the guidelines for issuing administrative orders recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Orders.***

19. Administrative judges should serve at the pleasure of the Chief Judge without specified term limits. ***Recommendation accepted.***
20. An annual training program should be established for administrative judges that specifically addresses their areas of administrative responsibility, including but not limited to budget, personnel, facilities, and interfacing with justice partners. Additionally, the Judiciary should facilitate administrative judges' participation in out-of-state training opportunities that relate to their duties and responsibilities, such as those offered by the National Center for State Courts and the National Judicial College. ***Recommendation accepted.***
21. An administrative judges' handbook should be developed by a representative group of administrative judges, court administrators, and appropriate staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts and/or the District Court Headquarters and distributed to every administrative judge as a primary resource to assist in the fulfilment of his or her responsibilities. ***Recommendation accepted.***
22. There should be a mentoring program for administrative judges to include required courses on judicial professionalism. The mentoring program should pair judges based on size and, when practicable, location of court. ***Recommendation accepted.***
23. To the extent possible, there should be a transition period whenever there is a change in administrative judges to allow for knowledge transfer. ***Recommendation accepted.***
24. Liability insurance, or reimbursement for private liability insurance, should be provided to administrative judges. ***Recommendation rejected based on research conducted by legal staff regarding representation provided by the Attorney General, as well as the Judiciary's lack of authority to provide the insurance.***
25. Administrative judges should submit to the Chief Judge an annual report on the State of the Court. In the District Court, the reports should go to the Chief Judge of the District Court for compilation and submission to the Chief Judge. In the circuit courts, the reports should go to the State Court Administrator for compilation and submission to the Chief Judge. ***Recommendation accepted.***
26. The Chief Judge should have to use, at her discretion, a tool to assist in the recruitment and selection of administrative judges. ***Recommendation accepted.***
27. The Chief Judge should ensure administrative judges have the tools and resources necessary to fulfill their administrative responsibilities. ***Recommendation accepted with approved expenses to be determined.***

- 28.** The Chief Judge should facilitate administrative judges' attendance at conferences that are beneficial in their administrative role, such as the Maryland State Bar Association Annual Meeting. ***Recommendation accepted.***
- 29.** The possibility of providing a salary differential to administrative judges should be explored. ***Concept accepted. The recommendation will be taken to the Judicial Compensation Commission.***